

THE WARHORSE STABLE

Volume 1, Issue 1

Published for the Soldiers and Families of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division

Dec. 23, 2005

INSIDE



Treating Wounds



Local Iraqis Thank Americans for Projects



Re-up Bonus Now!

MITT team spearheads 2BCT mission

By Pfc. Michael A. Molinaro
Staff Writer

Selected Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, have been training since their arrival in Kuwait for a mission in Iraq as members of Military Training Team.

The MITT team is a key element in the division's overall mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, said Sgt. Maj. Antoine Overstreet, MITT NCOIC, 2nd BCT.

"The main focus for the division is to train the Iraqi army and stand up Iraqi battalions," Overstreet said. "The mission of the MITT team is to train the Iraqis to run their own infrastructure and secure their own country."

Soldiers were chosen by military occupation specialty criteria. Personnel from logistical, maintenance, communications and medical MOS' were slated for the MITT team.

Interacting with their Iraqi counterparts will be a constant challenge facing the MITT team.

"We don't know their learning capabilities," said Sgt. Jesse Sparks, squad leader, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT. "Communication is another challenge we will all need to overcome and adapt to."

Overstreet said that teaching the Iraqis will take twice as long because of the language barrier.

The MITT team has been hard at work since arriving in Kuwait. They have conducted convoy live fire training, reflexive fire training, improvised explosive ordinance training and humvee rollover drills.

Foreign weapons training familiarized Soldiers on the proper procedures to disassemble, assemble and engage weapons the Iraqi army will be using, Overstreet said. They also trained with PKM machine guns



PHOTO BY PFC MICHAEL A. MOLINARO

As part of the 2nd BCT Military Training Team, Capt. Jarrod Ison, assistant brigade fires support officer, becomes familiar with the PKM machine gun Dec. 6 in Kuwait. The MITT team has been training since arriving in Kuwait late November.

and RPK squad automatic weapons.

The AK-47 has a fixed sight so Soldiers can't zero them or make adjustments like the M16A2 and M4, said Overstreet.

"We have to remember when we teach them that their equipment is no where near as technologically advanced as ours," he added.

"We will be successful," said Overstreet. "I think we will be able to honestly say 'this Iraqi battalion or brigade is trained and able to operate on their own in sector.'"

"I really like the training," said Sgt. Martin Diaz DeLeon Jr., paralegal, HHC, 2nd BCT.

"Our job is important because as soon as the Iraqi's get trained, hopefully, we can leave and go home."

Spartans Fully Deployed

Hello to all families and friends of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

Our much-anticipated deployment has begun and the Soldiers are faring well.

We began in Kuwait by conducting reception, staging, onward movement and integration.

Some of the training included improvised explosive devices and weapons training.

After completing mandatory tasks, Soldiers moved by vehicle and aircraft to Forward Operating Bases Duke and Kalsu.

We are currently conducting transition of authority with members of the 155th Brigade Combat Team out of Mississippi.

The quality of life is good at both FOBs, where Soldiers have a laundry service, gym, chapel, a Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent, and a dining facility that will never leave them hungry.

The mail system is working well. It has come in loads since our arrival. Please continue sending Soldiers mail as it boosts their morale.

HHC is ready to assume responsibility of our Area of Operation and maintain the operational tempo set by the 155th BCT.

Capt. Peter Moon
Spartan commander

Warhorse BCT Moves In

Dear friends and family members of the Warhorse Bde Combat Team:

Greetings from Iraq.

The deployment from Fort Hood went extremely well. After completing some really high-speed training in Kuwait, we moved onto our Forward Operating Bases in Iraq.

The trip was exciting for those troops who have never flown in a C-130 or CH47 before, but the move into Iraq was uneventful and safe.

Although the training in Kuwait was phenomenal, most Soldiers are glad to be forward, settled in their new home-away-from-home for the next year, and learning the ropes from the outgoing unit.

Living conditions vary by FOB, but most are fairly decent. With Baskin Robbins available for lunch and dinner, I don't think anyone is going to lose any weight. The Dealers are the only unit on a diet but that will change soon as they have a contracted mess hall en route.

When we first started flowing into our FOBs there was a sea of sand-colored uniforms (desert camouflage worn by the outgoing unit), but it is clear the team from Texas has taken over and the FOBs are now a sea of Green/Tan Army Combat Uniforms.

We are replacing the 155th BCT, Mississippi Rifles, Army National Guard, and our country owes these citizen Soldiers our admiration for a job well done.

They have accomplished so much and we will build on their successes. The 1-10 Cav is also replacing an international contingent that includes troops from Poland, Ukraine, Latvia, Mongolia and

El Salvador—their FOB is a mini-UN.

I can tell you we will leave this part of Iraq a far better place than how we found it because it is clear to me most, but not all, of the Iraqis in our area of operations want a secure environment because they recognize with security comes stability, and with stability comes prosperity.

Most suffered under Saddam and want a better life. The many Iraqis I have met over the past week are also very proud of their recent elections.

However, without a doubt in our area of operations we have some very dangerous areas full of very bad people and our job will be to work with the Iraqi army and police to cut out this rotten element from their society.

Every battalion in the brigade has personnel who will help train or partner with the Iraqi army and police. We will wrap our arms around our partner Iraqi army units and will make them better every day. Our goal is to work ourselves out of a job so we can come home and they can win the fight with the insurgents. It has been a whirlwind 30 days since the main body flights left Fort Hood right after Thanksgiving but we made it safe and sound into Iraq.

The troops have stepped up to the plate and are ready to swing away and get the mission accomplished. I wish all the friends, family and loved ones of the Soldiers in the Warhorse Brigade a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a prosperous new year.

God bless.

Col. John Tully
2nd BCT commander



THE WARHORSE STABLE

2nd BCT Commander.....Col. John N. Tully
2nd BCT Public Affairs Officer.....Maj. Anna Friederich
2nd BCT Public Affairs NCOIC.....Sgt. Jorge Gomez
Staff Writer.....Pfc. Michael Molinaro
Broadcast Journalist.....Pfc. Daniel Turner

The Warhorse Stable is produced in the interest of the Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. The Warhorse Stable is an Army-funded newsletter authorized under provision of AR 360-1. Contents of the Warhorse Stable are not necessarily the views of, nor endorsed by the, U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 4th Infantry Division.

Morphine Qualified

Medics treat severe wounds with injection

Pfc. Michael A. Molinaro
Staff Writer

Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, took part in a morphine administration certification class Dec. 20 here.

The class is required of medical personnel who will have the task of treating injured Soldiers while deployed in Iraq.

The class instructed medics how to administer morphine and how to respond in case the patient is given too much, said Capt. Michael Bowen, surgeon, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT.

Morphine depresses pain impulse transmission at receptors in the spinal cord and other locations, Bowen said.

Enlisted medical personnel who administer morphine must be trained and certified

in morphine indications, contraindications and precautions.

"Soldiers with amputations, severe pain, and shrapnel wounds would all receive morphine," said Spc. Chris Kellogg, medic, Company B, 2-8 Inf.

Medics are able to treat Soldiers with intramuscular or intravenous injections. The dosages differ according to what method a medic applies.

"IM injections can produce poor and irregular results," said Bowen. "IV's are a lot quicker and the preferred method."

IM injections have 10 milligrams of morphine per injection, Bowen said.

Medics are instructed to only give patients 10 milligrams over a 20-minute span. IV's allow medics to give patients between 2 - 5 grams every five minutes and the ability to manage how



PHOTO BY PFC MICHAEL A. MOLINARO

Capt. (Dr.) Michael Bowen, surgeon, 2-8 Inf., instructs Cpl. Chris Jaisingh, medic, HHC 2-8, how to administer a morphine injector.

much morphine a patient receives at a time.

Narcan is a reverse agent to morphine. When too much morphine is given, a wounded Soldier may begin to seem somnolent, have pinpoint pupils, and go into shock. If any of these symptoms occur, narcan is to be administered.

Identifying contraindications is a vital part of the class, Spc. Cornell Walker, Headquarters and Headquarters Company,

Special Troops Battalion, 2nd BCT.

Patients with allergies, hypotension, and symptoms of shock cannot be administered if any of these occur. Children under the age of 16 cannot receive morphine, unless the commander clears it.

Medics from 2nd BCT will be attached to line units as Soldiers continue to help stabilize the region in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Leaders review security



PHOTO BY SGT 1ST CLASS KEVIN REEVES

Brig. Gen. Augustus Collins, 155th BCT commander, and Col. John Tully, 2nd BCT commander, discuss the success of the parliamentary election with Alfred Fonteneau, regional coordinator for the U.S. embassy at Al-Hillah, during a security meeting at the embassy Dec. 18.

Health Pointers

By Maj. (Dr.) Steven Baur
2nd BCT surgeon

Field hygiene: especially important for females. Shower daily. Change undergarments and socks daily. Use foot powder. Brush your teeth twice a day.

Diet and weight control: the food at the dining facility is high in fat and salt content. Watch your portions and what you eat.

Get five servings a day of fresh fruits and vegetables. Drink at least 3 liters of water a day. Remember, everything in moderation. Exercise regularly, even if it is just walking.

Wash your hands before you eat. Use the hand sanitizer provided at each chemical toilet. This will prevent diarrhea outbreaks.

Next time, prevention of cold injuries.

Building Better Communities

Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations team up to improve local Iraqi lives

Pfc. Michael A. Molinaro
Staff Writer

Soldiers from Company B, 409th Civil Affairs, Abilene, Texas, trekked into the town of Tounis Dec. 19 to assess current projects.

Assisted by Soldiers from Tactical Psychological Operations Team 1092, Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Soldiers toured the area to speak with local residents.

Soldiers went into the village of Al Azawiya to gauge the status of a road project started two months ago. The dirt road was scheduled to be filled with water and a sub-base material that would compact the road and make it much easier to use on a daily basis. The contract called for 25 centimeters of fill to be laid down, but Soldiers found that the work didn't meet the specifications of the improvement project and spoke to the muhktar, Sami Anbid, about option to resolve the issue.

"Basically, either the contractor will finish the project to get paid, or we will cancel the contract and find another contractor to complete the work," said Sgt. 1st Class Brent Friedl.

Despite Friedl not being satisfied with the project, local residents expressed their happiness with the road.

"The road is much improved," said Anbid. "We like it now, and it will even get better, which is great."

Soldiers also talked to the villagers about other issues and specifically their reaction to the national elections held Dec. 15.

"I am very happy to have had the opportunity to vote," said Guad Abraham. "I am excited to see who won."

"The area has been safe since the American forces came," said Nahed Abraham.

Soldiers ventured to the Tounis electrical sub-station over concerns from the townspeople of Diyarah. Residents there told Friedl that their power comes from the Tounis plant and that they had been experiencing power outages frequently.

After speaking to engineers at the sub-station, Soldiers realized that the residents of Diyarah received their power from another sub-station and they would look into the matter.

Two weeks prior to the visit at the plant, a worker there was killed by gunfire on his way to work after ignoring warnings by coalition forces that his vehicle was too close. Friedl consoled the man's fellow workers and instructed them on how the man's family could get compensation for his loss.

Friedl's unit has been here since May.



PHOTOS BY PFC MICHAEL A. MOLINARO

First Lt. Joshua Adames, team leader, Tactical Psychological Operations Team 1092, hands out soccer balls to local residents of Al Azawiya Dec. 19.

"I see the Iraqi army getting more confidence in itself and prepared to step up."

The 409th travels into local towns and villages at least five days a week, said Friedl. There are currently 10 - 12 projects they are overseeing, including other road projects, school renovations, and the refurbishment of a food distribution center.

"Things are going well, but there is still a long way to go," Friedl said.

Through his interpreter, Sgt. 1st Class Brent Friedl, Company B, 409th Civil Affairs, talks to Sami Anbid about a road project in Anbid's village of Al Azawiya. Anbid expressed his satisfaction in the project thus far. Residents of Al Azawiya also proclaimed their joy in national elections held Dec. 15 and the fact that they were able to vote in peace.



Iraq votes



Iraqis line up to vote during the parliamentary elections in Karbala Dec. 15.

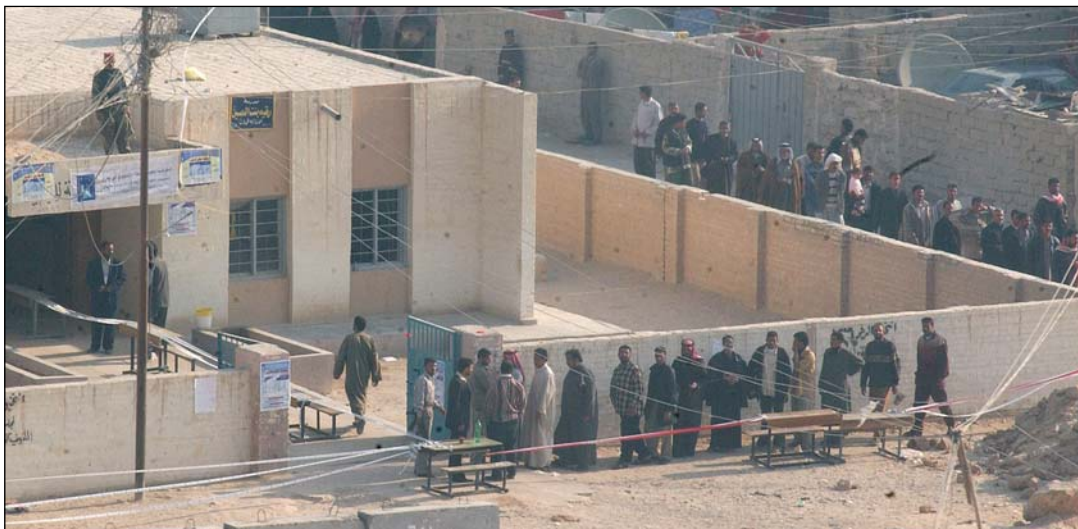


PHOTO BY SGT JORGE GOMEZ

Cash In on \$15,000 Tax-Free Every MOS eligible for bonus

By Sgt. Jorge Gomez
Editor

Deployed Soldiers in 2nd BCT, 4th Infantry Division, can now receive a tax-free bonus of up to \$15,000 if they re-enlist, regardless of their military occupational specialty.

Normally, Soldiers must be within a 24-month window to re-enlist and can only benefit from bonus messages if they carry certain MOS'.

Those who are awarded a bonus also end up paying at least 20 percent to taxes.

Now everyone is eligible to receive the current bonus message as long as the Soldier has never received one in his respective zone, said Sgt. 1st Class James Harris, 2nd BCT senior career counselor. Soldiers in the A-zone (17 months to six years) get a bonus multiplier of 1.5; B-zone (six to 10 years) get a bonus multiplier of 1.0; C-zone (10 to 14 years) get a bonus multiplier of 0.5.

The bonus message was originally posted to expire Dec. 31 but in early December it was extended to Dec. 31, 2006.

Harris said that even though the mes-

sage is extended for another 12 months, the Department of the Army could change the bonus to a lower or better amount, or rescind it altogether.

"We can guarantee a tax-free bonus of up to \$15,000 at this time," Harris said. "If a Soldier is considering re-enlisting, the best time to do it is now while we are deployed," Harris said.

Since the brigade landed in Kuwait about 100 Soldiers have taken advantage of the current bonus message. Career counselors or re-enlistment representatives are available at Forward Operating Base Duke, Kalsu, Iskandariyah and Charlie.

I recommend that every Soldier that is not in an indefinite status, E-7 or below under 14 years of service, should come see their career counselor because they may be eligible to receive a bonus without being aware of it, said Staff Sgt. Erika Lozano, 2nd BCT career counselor.



PHOTO BY PFC MICHAEL A. MOLINARO

Sgt. Erbi Herkinos, supply, HHC 2nd BCT, made the best of his deployment to Iraq – he re-enlisted at FOB Kalsu Dec. 17.

Since the brigade got into Kuwait about 100 Soldiers have taken advantage of this re-enlistment bonus message. Career counselors are available at FOB Duke, Kalsu, Iskandariyah and Charlie.

Sgt. Erbi Herkinos, from Marshall Islands, one of the first Soldiers to re-enlist in Iraq from 2nd BCT, said he is proud to be part of the global war on terrorism.

"I re-enlisted because I enjoy what I do for the Army and wanted to help build a democratic nation."

Crunch Time in NFL

Teams scramble for final playoff berths

By Pfc. Michael A. Molinaro
Staff Writer

Tensions are high and every snap counts. It's December, and that means there is only one week left in the regular season in the National Football League.

With only six spots open for the post-season in each conference, let's see how things are shaping up:

AFC

The two-time defending world champion New England Patriots wrapped up another AFC East title.

The Pats, at 10-5, are getting hot at the most important time of the year and have no thoughts of relinquishing their crown.

Cincinnati clinched its first

playoff spot since 1991 by winning the AFC North. They are 10-5.

AFC West-champion Denver clinched a first-round bye and has a record of 12-3.

Jacksonville, at 11-4, clinched one of the wild-card spots, while Pittsburgh is the front-runner for the final playoff berth at 10-5.

The Kansas City Chiefs are 9-6 and clinging to playoff hopes. But they are all chasing the Colts, who at 13-2, had their run at an undefeated season spoiled by the Chargers.

The Colts still have home-field advantage throughout the playoffs

NFC

In the East, the New York Giants are in first place at 10-5 and one win away from



COURTESY GETTY IMAGE PHOTO

MVP candidate Shaun Alexander and the Seattle Seahawks have their sights set on Super Bowl XL.

wrapping up the division. The Redskins and Cowboys are both 9-6 and in the hunt for a wild-card berth.

The Eagles will not make the postseason for the first time in five years.

Chicago clinched a division title and first-round bye with a record of 11-4.

Tampa Bay leads the pack in the South division with a mark of 10-5 and two wins

against Carolina, who is also 10-5.

With a record of 13-2, the Seahawks claimed the top seed in the NFC and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

They defeated Indianapolis in a possible Super Bowl match up Christmas Eve in Seattle and may have become the favorites to win Super Bowl XL in Detroit.



COURTESY ESPN.COM PHOTO

Heisman-winner Reggie Bush and USC seek a third straight national championship.

BCS Gets it Right

#1 USC vs. #2 Texas headlines bowl games

By Pfc. Michael A. Molinaro
Staff Writer

Bowl Championship Series schedule:

FIESTA BOWL (Jan. 2) - Ohio St. vs. Notre Dame

SUGAR BOWL (Jan. 2) - West Virginia vs. Georgia

ORANGE BOWL (Jan. 3) - Florida St. vs. Penn St.

ROSE BOWL (Jan. 4) - National Championship - Texas vs. USC

Heisman trophy winner and star USC running back Reggie Bush has declared

he will enter the NFL draft after USC goes for its third consecutive BCS title. Bush is expected to be a top-five pick in April's draft.

COLLEGE HOOPS

Top 10 as of Dec. 19

1. Duke	11-0
2. Connecticut	9-0
3. Villanova	8-0
4. Memphis	9-1
5. Florida	11-0
6. Illinois	12-0
7. Washington	10-0
8. Gonzaga	9-2
9. Michigan St	10-2
10. Louisville	9-1

New Coach, Same Results

Pistons cruising in first half of season

Pfc. Michael A. Molinaro
Staff Writer

As the new year approaches and the National Basketball Association begins to get into the heart of its schedule, let's take a look at how things have gone thus far in the 2005-2006 season.

Same old story

In the Eastern Conference, the Detroit Pistons are once again the early odds-on favorite after racing out to an 18-3 record. Their Central Division rivals are enjoying early-season success as every team is above .500, including the Indiana Pacers and the LeBron James-led Cleveland Cavaliers.

The Miami Heat, with new coach Pat Riley, are 14-11 and in control of the weak Southeast Division. Shaquille O'Neal recently returned to action after missing 22 games, and scored 41 points in his first start.

The Atlantic Division, even weaker than the Southeast, has Philadelphia in first at 12-12 and New Jersey right behind them at 10-12.

Surprises abound

In the Western Conference, the defending champion San Antonio Spurs seem poised to defend their title as they

have started off 19-4 this season. Dallas is on their heels with a 17-6 record, and Memphis is in third in the Southwest division at 14-8.

Minnesota has taken the early lead in the competitive Northwest division, with a record of 12-9. Denver, Utah, and Seattle are all right in the thick of things early on. And in the Pacific division, Los Angeles is once again in first place.

But it's not the team in purple-and-gold, but the loveable loser Clippers, led by Elton Brand and a 15-8 mark.

In second place is last year's division champion Phoenix Suns, without Amare Stoudmire, and the Golden State Warriors, another perennial-loser that has turned things around this year after acquiring Baron Davis at last year's trade deadline. Both teams are 14-9.

The Lakers, at 13-10, are beginning to adjust to Phil Jackson's system and should be dangerous all season long.

Scoring leaders and news

● Allen Iverson of the Philadelphia 76ers leads the league in scoring with 34



COURTESY AP PHOTO

Kobe Bryant scored 62 points against Dallas Dec. 21. His Lakers play against former teammate Shaquille O'Neal and the Miami Heat Christmas Day.

points a game. Kobe Bryant and James are averaging 31 each a game, and the Wizards' Gilbert Arenas is pouring in 27.8 a game, followed by Dwayne Wade at 27.2 a contest.

● Pat Riley took over as coach of the Miami Heat after Stan Van Gundy resigned. Riley, also the team president, won four championships with the Los Angeles Lakers in the 80s during the Showtime era.

● Ron Artest denies rumors that he wants to be traded from Indiana, but remains on the team's inactive list. The Pacers are 4-1 without Artest.

● Jerry Buss and Shaquille O'Neal engage in a war of words over the trading of O'Neal two summers ago.

Sens Melt Ice

Pucks fly again as hockey is back

Pfc. Michael A. Molinaro
Staff Writer

After not having a season for the first time in the history of sports due to labor strife, the National Hockey League is back and better than ever. Here's a quick look at the first few months.

Oh Canada!

The Ottawa Senators have come out of the gates on fire with a mark of 23-5-2.

They are holding off the surprising Buffalo Sabres.

The New York Rangers and Philadelphia Flyers are in a tight battle for the lead in the Atlantic Division, and the Carolina Hurricanes are having it easy in the Southeast Division.

The Detroit Red Wings are right where they are used to being, in first-place in the Central Division.

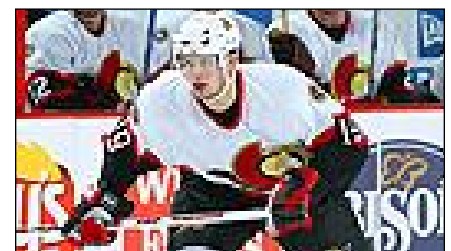
Nashville is nipping at

their heels though, only four points behind.

The Northwest Division is hockey's best division thus far, with three points separating Vancouver, Calgary, and Edmonton. Dallas and Los Angeles are tied atop the Pacific division lead.

Stats

Jaromir Jagr leads the



COURTESY ESPN.COM PHOTO

Jason Spezza and the Ottawa Senators are in first place in the Eastern Conference as the NHL season is in full swing after a one-year hiatus.

league in scoring right now with 50 points. Right behind him are Ottawa's Daniel Alfredsson and San Jose's Joe Thornton with 47 points apiece.